

Amendment of the Claims:

1-4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently amended). A space-maintainer for inserting between two vertebral bodies, said space maintainer comprising:

a sleeve-shaped first part having a longitudinal axis;

a second part guided therein, the second part being displaceable in an axial direction relative to the first part;

a device connecting the sleeve-shaped first part and the second part, the device comprising a first component having a toothed profile extending parallel to the longitudinal axis and a second component having a toothed wheel located for engagement with the toothed profile of the first component, the rotational axis of the toothed wheel being perpendicular to the toothed profile,

wherein the first component is attached to one of the sleeve-shaped first part or second part and the second component is attached to the other of the sleeve-shaped first part or second part so that a rotary movement of the toothed wheel is converted into a movement displacing the second part relative to the sleeve-shaped first part in the axial direction for adjusting a total length of the sleeve-shaped first part and the second part.

6. (Previously presented). The space-maintainer according to Claim 5, wherein the toothed wheel is mounted in the sleeve-shaped first part.

7. (Previously presented). The space-maintainer according to Claim 5, wherein the second part further comprises an outer surface and a grid section, extending in the axial direction, the grid section comprising a grid structure consisting of a plurality of indentations arranged adjacent to one another in the axial direction on said outer surface facing the first part; and

the space-maintainer further comprises a stopping part that cooperates with the grid structure.

8. (Previously presented). The space maintainer according to Claim 5, further comprising a rotary instrument, which can engage the toothed wheel for changing a rotary position of the toothed wheel and, therefore, the total length of the sleeve-shaped first part and the second part.

9. (Previously presented). The space-maintainer according to Claim 8, wherein the second part further comprises an outer surface and a grid section, extending in the axial direction, the grid section comprising a grid structure consisting of a plurality of indentations arranged adjacent to one another in the axial direction on said outer surface facing the first part; and

the space-maintainer further comprises a stopping part that cooperates with the grid structure.--

10. (Previously presented). The space-maintainer according to Claim 8, wherein the toothed wheel is mounted in the sleeve-shaped first part.

11. (Previously presented). The space-maintainer according to Claim 10, wherein the second part further comprises an outer surface and a grid section, extending in the axial direction, the grid section comprising a grid structure consisting of a plurality of indentations arranged adjacent to one another in the axial direction on said outer surface facing the first part; and

the space-maintainer further comprises a stopping part that cooperates with the grid structure.